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Dwindling population poses formidable problem for Ontario Jewish communities

By BRIAN STONEMAN
CJN Staff Reporter

TORONTO –

Ontario's small-town Jewish life is dying, claim officials of two organizations here which deal with approximately 30 communities.

"There is no doubt these communities will eventually disappear," Dr. Edmond Lipsitz, director of education and culture with Canadian Jewish Congress, Central Region, told The Canadian Jewish News recently.

Yehuda Noy, executive-director, United Israel Appeal (Ontario), concurred. "What you find in the smaller communities is that they are going to die out eventually," he said. "Within the next generation, there will be a lot of these communities without Jewish population."

As assimilation, the departure of youth seeking employment or education, and the death of older members takes its toll, the majority of these communities face rapidly dwindling population. In fact, said Lipsitz, at least five of them have had their community life disappear in the last five or 10 years. These are, according to Lipsitz: Kirkland Lake, Welland, Port Colborne, Timmins and Sault Ste. Marie.

This situation, such as faced by the 10 remaining families in Kirkland Lake, compounds the difficulties in maintaining education, synagogues, kosher availability and programing. The financial burden increases as a dwindling membership struggles to maintain a synagogue. Importing of kosher products adds to their already high price. Imbalance in children's age and sex makes their education extremely difficult. A lack of cultural resources and organizational presence is evident.

"It all combines to pit the odds against them," said Lipsitz. "As it gets smaller and smaller, it gets harder and harder to get someone to go there. Who wants to live in a community that is dying?"

The quality of Jewish leadership is aggravated in many instances by the necessity of having one spiritual leader perform all tasks; rabbi, cantor, public relations man and teacher. "Very seldom do you find all these qualities in one man and so somewhere along the line something must suffer," Lipsitz said. As Noy noted, "if a rabbi (with these qualities) has his choice between a congregation of 500 and 50 families, obviously he is going to choose the congregation with 500."

Consequently, Lipsitz poses the question. "Should you encourage Jewish life in a small town?"

Eddie Duke, a Kirkland Lake community spokesman answers: "There is only one thing wrong with small towns . . . not enough Jews!"

The "hopeless" situation depresses him, he says, urging Jewish aliyah to his far north town. The advantages, he said, include "fresh air, a beautiful land full of trees, lakes, uncrowded highways and friendly goyim."

The not-so-remote Oakville Jewish community of 35 families, a "bedroom" town to Toronto, "is ignored and therefore has (even) more difficulty attracting members," according to Mrs. Betty Yan, treasurer of its Conservative Beth El Congregation. While its membership is stable, she said, "committed leadership and members are always difficult to come by and keep."

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The Canadian Jewish news

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A mission per month to Israel is ambition

MONTREAL –

A plan to encourage members of the Montreal Jewish community in large numbers to visit Israel in the wake of the Yom Kippur War has been announced by Saul Tarnofsky, general chairman of the 1974 Combined Jewish Appeal and Israel Emergency Fund.

Tarnofsky named two active community leaders, Morty Brownstein and Marvin Walker, to head up a newly-formed "People-to-People Mission Task Force."

"We plan to send a minimum of one study mission a month throughout most of 1974," Tarnofsky stated.

The "People-to-People" missions, each headed by a Combined Jewish Appeal leader will meet in Israel with prominent figures in the country for briefings, visit settlements in the north which were damaged by Syrian and terrorist attacks, bring gifts to seriously wounded soldiers and generally contribute to the strengthening of Israeli morale.

Mission Number One, headed by Louis Greenberg, is slated to depart Montreal Jan. 13th and Walker plans to lead a second mission departing 11 days later.

Normally, the Combined Jewish Appeal and Israel Emergency Fund mounts between three and five study missions a year to Israel. In the coming postwar year, co-chairmen Brownstein and Walker are making preliminary plans for a minimum of 10 missions involving several hundred people.

"The war, and post-war political developments have built up a sense of isolation in Israel," said Tarnofsky. "We hope to break through that barrier and assure Israelis, face-to-face, that they still have many friends in the world."

Federal Health and Welfare Minister Marc Lalonde visits members of the Golden Age Association of Montreal's Allied Jewish Community Services. The minister talked with members after officially opening a handiwork exhibition.

Meany urges self sufficiency now for America in energy

NEW YORK (JTA) –

George Meany, president of the AFL-CIO, has declared at an Israel Bond dinner before an audience of 1,200 in the Americana Hotel that "we must move now, massively and dramatically to make America self-sufficient in energy" to prevent Arab oil blackmail from dictating U.S. foreign policy.

"What is involved here," Meany said, "is more than the issue of American support for Israel. If that support is diminished or destroyed by the oil weapon — and that is how the Arabs consider their oil, as a weapon — then other American policies can be determined the same way."

In a wide-ranging speech, Meany joined labor and management representatives, Israeli leaders, Mayor-elect Abraham D. Beame, and Mayor John V. Lindsay, in paying tribute to Louis Stulberg, president of the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union, who received the Israel Prime Minister's Silver Medal "in recognition of his leadership in the Israel Bond program."

In spelling out the importance of overcoming the energy crisis, Meany said: "The American people need to understand that even if the Arab oil embargo is lifted, the price of oil will continue to go up and up and up. It is the old story — squeeze the supply to jack up the price. And other oil companies — American oil companies — are going along with the game. It is very, very profitable. There is no real way out of this problem except to develop self-sufficiency. We must move with the same determination that put a man on the moon. We must do this not just for Israel's sake — but for our own."

Emphasizing that "Israel is a trade union country," Meany stated: "To us Israel represents the kind of social and economic progress that can be made by a free people, a free working people, in a free government, resting on free, democratic institutions."

Israeli soldiers returning from the Egyptian front celebrate by dancing and singing with a torah in front of the Western Wall in the Old City of Jerusalem. This photograph was taken just after the ceasefire by Jacob El-Baz.

'Indifference' is criticized

Israel faces loss of war on home front, is charge

TEL AVIV (JCNS) –

Lashing out in bitter criticism at what he called the "indifference" of many civilians towards their work, Abraham Shavitt, vice-president of the Manufacturers' Association, said Israel is losing the war on the home front.

The country is facing a long, drawn-out war of economic attrition, the purpose of which is to smash the Israeli economy, Shavitt declared. He said the country is divided into two camps, one at the actual front where it is doing its duty with high morale, and the other camp at home where a feeling of indifference is beginning to set in.

"Industry is the backbone of this country," he said in an interview. "It not only brings in foreign currency, but it supports the soldiers at the front. Women must replace the mobilized men."

David Herezano, managing director of Assis, the fruit processing firm, said: "During the actual shooting war we were reduced to 40% of our staff, but they turned out 80% of normal production. After the shooting war each worker slowed down production."

Other manufacturers, including Osem Ltd., which exports many of its food products abroad, and Vita Ltd., another food processing factory agreed that "work morale plummeted after the fighting."

A severe problem facing industry is that of key personnel mobilized by the army. Vita could not even assemble its citrus processing line since its mechanics were in the forces. An official in the Manufacturers' Association said he had asked the army for the release of 1,000 key workers. The army had agreed to release 113 but only 100, in fact, had returned to civilian life.

Because of the desperate shortage of labor, a call has come for the re-activation of the emergency services committee which functioned during the Second World War. Mrs. Esther Herlitz, former ambassador to Denmark, and now head of the Volunteers Services Centre, said that key personnel in education, social services and immigrant absorption should be exempted from military duties.

"The soldiers at the front should be assured their families are cared for and the responsibility for such planning must be placed in the hands of a government minister," Mrs. Herlitz added.

Some 4,000 volunteers are in Israel at present. Half of this number are working in kibbutzim. The volunteers come mainly from the United States, but many arrived from Britain, France, Canada, South Africa and South America with small parties from Australia, Spain, Holland, Italy, Belgium and Australia.

According to a survey carried out by the Hebrew University, some 89% of Israel's population believes the emergency situation justifies increased demands on the country's workers. Although most people felt an increased work load was justified, they thought workers should not be asked to work outside their own field. Some 92% were in favor of recruiting non-working women and other hitherto unexploited sources of manpower.

ANALYSIS

JERUSALEM –

The Geneva conference for a Middle Eastern peace represents an historic opportunity to attempt to solve the long-standing Arab-Israel conflict through free negotiations, instead of by renewed war.

The latest attempt by Egypt, Syria and other Arab countries to overwhelm Israel militarily, by their unprovoked sudden and massive aggression on the Day of Atonement, once again proved abortive, and added cogency to the argument that no solution can come by fighting.

The Geneva peace conference affords one more opportunity to work out a just settlement, based on mutual compromise and concessions, aimed at establishing normal neighborly relations, rejecting the concept of an imposed solution.

Israel is attending this conference in a spirit of compromise and conciliation. She realizes it will be a long, difficult process of direct negotiations with her adversaries, but she aims at a real peace and not a mere respite between wars nor a vehicle for the Arabs to work out a "settlement" as a temporary suspension of the conflict, with the object of resuming their war later under more advantageous strategic conditions.

It should not be expected that there will be an overnight, or early, agreement on the complicated, long-standing issues.

The Geneva conference has not been called to solve the world energy crisis — which is fundamentally a commercial dispute between Arab oil producers and their Western customers. This is not on the agenda.

The Geneva conference has not been called to perpetuate Arab terror activities (hitherto consistently supported and sustained by several Arab governments) nor to set up a Palestinian "state" designed to pose another offensive threat to Israel's existence, thus generating still another war. In fact, the entire question of a Palestinian "national entity" is a highly complex one, invoving Jordan, the administered areas controlled by Israel since 1967, the Palestinian extremist and terrorist groups, and the Arab governments which support or control them.

The Geneva conference has not been called to accomplish the "first phase" so as to prepare the ground for the "second phase."

It has been called to resolve a long, bitter, complicated and emotionally-charged conflict, in which outside powers have also become involved, by bringing about a situation of normal coexistence through a contractual peace treaty, adequately safeguarded, providing secure, agreed, recognized and defensible boundaries for all the states involved; and opening up the prospect of a common fight by them against poverty, illiteracy, disease and economic under-development.

This is what Israel means by "peace". The differing views of the two sides regarding the nature of the future relationship (peace with reconciliation vs. a mere armistice with all "claims" reserved) make all the more cogent Israel's case for truly defensible borders.

The Geneva peace conference could become an historic opportunity.

Unique experience for Toronto man

TORONTO –

A Toronto businessman disguised as an Israeli soldier was witness to one of the most widely-publicized human interest stories to come out of the Yom Kippur War.

Edward Fish went to Israel earlier this month to see what was happening and if his friends and relatives were alright. Curious to visit the west bank of the Suez, he got hold of an Israeli military uniform and boarded an Egged bus transporting troops to the front. The driver of the bus happened to be a friend, he told The Canadian Jewish News.

While he was at Fayid on the front, Captain Itamar Weisbein discovered the grave of his father who died in 1942 while serving in the British army in the North African campaign against the Nazis. Weisbein, a transport commander, who was seven when his father died, had no knowledge of the whereabouts of the grave.

The grave was actually found by another friend of Fish in a British cemetery not too far from where the Israelis were stationed. The soldier found eight gravestones marked with Mogen Davids.

Fish stayed at the front for two days. From what he saw and was told, he said "the feats of the army will go down with the Maccabeans and the stand at Masada. It's a ragged-looking army, but what they've done is unbelievable."

U.S. House approves military aid

WASHINGTON (JCNS) –

By 364 votes to 52, the U.S. House of Representatives approved a $2,200 million appropriation last week to help Israel replace military equipment lost in the Yom Kippur War.

There was intense lobbying by the administration for the House to pass the measure. Opposition to the bill came from the liberals who object to all military aid and from conservative elements concerned with the effect on the Arab oil embargo and the peace talks in Geneva.

Representative Otto Passman, a Louisiana Democrat, said the appropriation was "almost equivalent to a declaration of war on Saudi Arabia."

Movies may close unless aid is given

TEL AVIV (JCNS) –

If the authorities do not extend immediate financial help to the country's cinemas, they are in danger of closing down. This was stated by Gabriel Mograbi, chairman of the Cinemas' Association.

The association has 245 member cinemas throughout the country and 50 cinemas are in imminent danger of closing. Mograbi said it was up to the government to decide whether cinemas were "a vital part of the country's entertainment and culture."

The number of cinema patrons since war broke is down by 50% or more from last year. Attendance in October, the month the war broke out, was 1,220,000 compared with 2,951,000 in the same month last year.

Most of the 50 cinemas facing closure are in towns and villages where they are the focal point of social activity. However, three are in Tel Aviv, two in Jerusalem and two in Haifa. The 50 cinemas employ some 500 people of the 2,000 employed in the entire industry. Cinemas suffered a great blow when television was introduced five years ago.

Syria's captives may be dead

JERUSALEM –

Syria's refusal to attend the Mideast peace talks at Geneva comes at a time when there is a growing belief here that Syria killed the Israeli soldiers captured in the Golan Heights battles.

Israel had announced that she would not sit down with Syrian representatives at the Geneva meetings unless that country gave a detailed list of Israeli prisoners of war and permitted the international Red Cross to visit them.

The repeated request for this information was met by silence from the Damascus government. Then came the disclosure that 48 Israeli soldiers, their hands tied behind their back, had been found riddled with bullets in areas captured from the Syrians.

Now it is believed that Syria has no prisoner of war list to give; that her troops murdered the Israelis in cold blood, about 100 in all.

World News

A couple of the more interesting weddings in Israel are spotlighted here. Top, Avidor Avni was an Egyptian prisoner of war the day he was scheduled to marry. Immediately after his repatriation, he was wed with Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren performing the service. At bottom is military wedding at an airport in Faid, Egypt. (Photos from IPPA).

Feature IAI boss

Protest Hods 'parachuting'

By ROYSTON ALLEN
CJN Israel Correspondent

TEL AVIV –

The attempt to impose former Israeli air force chief Mordechai Hod upon the management of Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI) could cause severe labor problems there which would affect IAI's output.

"Motti" Hod left the air force some time ago (possibly against his will) and one of his first statements to the press indicated that he wanted a top job with IAI "as general manager or chairman of the board."

Both positions are currently filled and neither incumbent feels like resigning.

Least of all IAI general manager Al Schwimmer, who founded the company and nursed it to the powerful production plant it is today, supplying civil and military aircraft to all parts of the world, offering service to dozens of airlines, producing new air weapons including guided missiles and — if the foreign press is to be believed — making top grade jet fighters. During the recent war, IAI more than proved its value.

At a meeting with Defence Minister Dayan, Schwimmer said that if Hod is pushed in as chairman (step one to the post of general manager), then he would not continue. Such an appointment, he said, would, in effect, give IAI two general managers.

If Schwimmer were to leave, labor problems at IAI would begin in earnest.

A short time before the Dayan-Schwimmer meeting, over 100 senior IAI employees sent Hod a letter urging him to withdraw his candidature. Most of the IAI workers are apparently behind Schwimmer in his resistance to having Hod forced on the firm.

Dayan's assurance that Hod's appointment and any subsequent reorganizing of the plant and its personnel would not interfere with Schwimmer's present preroga-tives did not calm the workers.

The Dayan-Hod issue seems to have affected companies other than IAI.

El Al company spokesman Arnold Sherman has left the Israeli national airline to head IAI's public relations division, according to the local press. Unofficial reports say he requested a leave of absence from El Al in order to stand behind Schwimmer, but El Al reportedly "reluctantly" decided to accept his resignation.

So a top executive was "reluctantly" relieved of his responsibilities at El Al. Sherman, a former senior editor of **Aviation and Space Weekly**, said he left with "greatest regrets."

Why the insistence to put Hod in as chairman of the board, if it causes such a rumpus?

Merely to find a job for a former top officer? Possibly, this is a standard practice here — top rankers leave the IDF and walk into high level jobs in government concerns or (more increasingly of late) into politics.

Another reason being bandied around is that in order to get Hod to leave his post as CO of the air force, Dayan had to promise him the top IAI job and now might be regretting his rash promise.

Who will win in the end is yet to be decided. Schwimmer has asked for another meeting with Dayan and the IAI workers; the public and the press are just waiting.

Conservatives blasted

MANCHESTER (JCNS) –

The difference between the late Ernest Bevin and the present British Foreign Secretary Sir Alec Douglas-Home is that Bevin wanted to carry out an abortion — he did not want the state of Israel to be born — while Sir Alec's idea is euthanasia — he would like to see Israel cease to exist, Gerald Kaufman, MP, told the Council of Manchester and Salford Jews last week.

Kaufman pointed out that while Labor MPs supported Israel by 10 - 1, Conservative MPs had opposed the state's interests by 14 - 1. He described the present situation in the Middle East as serious and, for world Jewry, the worst since the rise of Hitler. He thought the security Israel provided for world Jewry had been eroded and he pleaded for unity among Jews.

Kaufman added that the military victory had been a painful one and had brought Israel close to economic death. "They can't demobilize their men and can't get their economy going at full blast."

After saying that Israel's security was in danger for the first time since 1949, Kaufman stressed that negotiations were to be held with an enemy who must now know that they cannot defeat Israel on the battlefield. But he pointed out, the Arabs were now calling the existence of Israel into doubt, something they had not done before.

'Shoot from hip diplomacy made Israel vulnerable'

NEW YORK (JTA) –

Rep. Elizabeth Holtzman (D.-N.Y.) charged that the Nixon - Kissinger "shooting from the hip" diplomacy in the Middle East "might have placed Israel in a more vulnerable position than before" the Yom Kippur War.

Addressing the ninth biennial convention of the Americans for Progressive Israel-Hashomer Hatzair at the Statler Hilton Hotel, Rep. Holtzman observed that when the Egyptian Third Army was encircled by Israeli forces, Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger flew to Moscow to negotiate a ceasefire but failed to bargain for an end to the Arab oil boycott.

"The U.S., by its failure to bargain at that point allowed Israel to become isolated in the whole world with every country an enemy except the U.S.," she said. Rep. Holtzman said she was also disturbed by rumors that the U.S. will try to pressure Israel to give up defensible borders and part of Jerusalem in exchange for a peace settlement. We must be realistic about American intentions, she said, alleging the Nixon Middle East policy was based on political expediency.

The Congresswoman who represents Brooklyn's 16th District, said that she and other Jewish members of Congress have received "hate mail" in recent weeks. She warned that unless the public is educated to the real causes of the current energy shortage there was danger of an uprising of anti-Semitism in this country.

Rep. Holtzman also assailed the Nixon administration for its alleged willingness to sacrifice Soviet Jews for the sake of "so-called detente" with the USSR. She referred to the administration's efforts to kill the Mills-Vanik legislation in the House. She said that an administration that would "sell out" Soviet Jews cannot be trusted to maintain the integrity of the state of Israel.

Trade Reform Act now before Senate

WASHINGTON (JTA) –

The House of Representatives, by a vote of 272 - 140, has adopted the 1973 Trade Reform Act embodying bans on U.S. trade credits, investment guarantees and most favored nation status for the Soviet Union until it modifies its emigration practices.

The measure will go to the Senate which is to hold hearings on the trade bill beginning early next year and where more than three-quarters of the members have already endorsed identical restrictions on trade with the USSR embodied in the Jackson Amendment. The vote on the Trade Reform Act followed an overwhelming manifestation of support for an amendment sponsored by Rep. Charles A. Vanik (D.-Ohio) to deny trade credits and investment guarantees, directly or indirectly, to the Soviet Union until it eases its policies on the emigration of Jews and others.

The Vanik motion was adopted 319 - 80 and the House then went on to kill by a vote of 298 - 106, a motion by administration supporters to delete the entire Title Four (Mills-Vanik) from the Trade Act.

Drivers sought abroad

JERUSALEM (JCNS) –

Representatives of the Jewish Agency abroad are to attempt to recruit volunteer bus drivers to help fill the needs of Israel's two public transport co-operatives, Egged and Dan. The co-operatives state that they are about 1,000 drivers short and the situation may become even more acute with the introduction next week of the carless day for every private motorist.

Only 2,400 drivers of the Egged company — the national bus co-operative — out of the company's normal 5,000 total, have been released from reserve duty while Dan, which operates in the greater Tel Aviv area, has only 750 of its normal complement of 1,800 drivers.

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El Al pleased by Toronto's response to urgent need for revival of tourism

By ROCHELLE CARR

TORONTO –

Toronto Jewry's response to Israel's need for tourism to offset her feeling of isolation "has been very good," according to a representative from El Al.

The representative noted "people here realize how important it is for Israelis that they come and see Israel now." To illustrate this fact further, the same representative spoke of a Torontonian who had just returned from a 10 day trip to Israel. This lady had taken little personal clothing in order "to load up with supplies for the army."

She related to the El Al representative in Toronto that "though I have been in Israel many times, this was my most meaningful trip. There was a tremendous amount of warmth and a general feeling of 'thank you' from the Israeli people, on a personal basis, despite the tense situation in not knowing where they stand from day to day. I felt that my presence was really needed."

Not just individuals are responding to show Israelis they are not alone. El Al reports the following synagogues have arranged trips to Israel: Shaarei Tefillah, Dec. 23 for 10 days; Adath Israel, Jan. 7 for 10 days; Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda, Jan. 23 for 14 days; Shaarei Shomayim, Feb. 24 for 14 days; Beth Sholom, Feb. 25 for 14 days; Holy Blossom, Feb. 27 for 14 days; Temple Sinai, Feb. 28 for 10 days; Or Shalom in London, Ont., March 11 for 14 days, and Temple Emanu-El, March 18 for 14 days.

As well, El Al said that during January, February and March there are trips leaving under the auspices of the United Jewish Appeal, Hadassah and B'nai B'rith.

The swell of interest was also visible at a meeting at Temple Sinai sponsored by the Israel Government Tourist Office, El Al, and Kelman Tours Ltd., and at a meeting at Adath Israel sponsored by the Israel Government Tourist Office, El Al, and Allied Travel Associates which comprises Colomby Travel, Celebrity Travel, Aufgang Travel, Al Perly Travel and Sheppard Travel.

Through a CFTO television film, which covered the recent fact-finding trip of 100 Torontonians headed by Murray B. Koffler, the 1974 United Jewish Appeal campaign chairman, the Temple Sinai audience saw visible proof of Israel's needs.

At Adath Israel, Rabbi Erwin Schild similarly enlightened the audience by reporting on his recent trip to Israel.

The fact that hundreds of people showed up on two such cold evenings attests to the interest in showing solidarity with Israel through tourism. As one man commented on his way out of Temple Sinai, "I haven't been to Israel since 1962. I'm going on Temple Sinai's trip partly because I'm long overdue to re-visit Israel, but mostly because they really need us there now."

General Haim Herzog (right), Israeli military commentator, presents Israel Prime Minister's Medal to Donald Lipman, Israel Bonds general campaign chairman, who is retiring after serving for two years in the position. The presentation was made at the O'Keefe Centre where the annual Chanukah Festival's two shows took place.

Mild recession is prediction

From our Quebec Bureau

MONTREAL –

A prominent Jewish economist predicts a relatively mild downturn in the Canadian economy, with a reduction in the rate of growth and an increase in unemployment figures.

"Now, even optimists say there will be a growth in the Canadian GNP of only about 4%. This means, however, a displacement of some workers," said Arthur Lermer, professor of economics at Sir George Williams University.

Lermer, who is also president of the International Centre of Research and Information on Public and Corporate Economy, said a recession in Canada would hit durable goods production, such as cars and refrigerators.

In the soft goods area where, he said, a considerable number of Jews make their livelihood, there would be fewer setbacks. Non-durable goods, such as clothing and food distribution, are produced for the internal market and are, therefore, less sensitive to international pressures.

Retail stores sales, he added, would slow up, but not to the same extent as stores selling durable goods.

The economist told **The Canadian Jewish News** that he doesn't expect unemployment to be a serious setback because of government programs which inject funds into the economy, such as unemployment insurance benefits and welfare.

Lermer noted mild recessions in the past have usually resulted in lower price levels, but this time, with a scarcity of goods, prices should increase.

He added, however, that inflationary pressures as well as a recession may play havoc with the economy, unless changes are introduced. He said the present stock market tumbles are exaggerated because the market registers expectations which are usually more volatile than is actually warranted by the economy.

"In any case, in view of the danger of recession, more bolder and determined policies than we've been getting are called for. Although the U.S. is enjoying favorable balance of payments, it is nevertheless, suffering from the wrong policies, reflected in the kind of inflation the country is experiencing."

In view of the current energy curtailment, Lermer hopes energy conservation is not enforced at the expense of industry -- but confined to the consumption end.

Labor's Shapiro to speak at dinner

TORONTO –

Judah Shapiro, president, U.S. Committee for Labor Israel, will be guest speaker at the annual dinner of the Israel Histadrut campaign Sunday, Jan. 16, at Beth Tzedec.

Editor of the **Jewish Frontier**, Shapiro also serves as professor of contemporary Jewish thought of the Hebrew Union College School and sociology professor at the Herzliah Jewish Teachers Seminary. He is past president of the National Conference of Jewish Communal Services.

Entertaining at the dinner, which starts at 6 p.m. are Ethel Kovenska and Lev Kogan from Russia via Israel.

Correction

In the Dec. 21 issue of **The Canadian Jewish News** a story headlined "Plea for Sabbath-driving halt brings varied opinion," Rabbi Herbert Feder of Beth Tikvah was identified as a Reform rabbi. That was incorrect. He is a Conservative rabbi. **The CJN** apologizes for the error.

Ontario students exchange visits

TORONTO –

Grade eight students of the United Synagogue Day School of Toronto recently spent a weekend in Ottawa in connection with their study of governments.

Their hosts for the trip, the grade eight students of the Hillel Academy in Ottawa, provided overnight accommodation for the Toronto group, and both groups shared an evening of sports and games at the Jewish Community Centre.

Tours of the major sites of interest in Ottawa included a stop at the Israeli embassy, where the group was received by the Israeli consul, and reported on their program of support, fundraising for Israel, and person-to-person contact with Israelis on all fronts.

The Ottawa group has been invited to Toronto for a return visit in the spring term. The grade eight youngsters of United Synagogue Day School are looking forward to showing their Ottawa friends points of general interest such as the Ontario Science Centre and Ontario Place, and points of Jewish interest such as the Beth Tzedec Museum and the Baycrest Home for the Aged.

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Quebec's unwillingness to legislate human rights code is intolerable

Quebec Education Minister Francois Cloutier's recent announcement that the government will legislate compulsory French language instruction for immigrants of non-English origin underlines the necessity for a code of human rights. Quebec's insistence in protecting and encouraging the use of the French language in a time when there is great emphasis on national identity is hardly reproachable. Cloutier's legislation, however, would only serve to discourage potential immigrants to this province, a fact that is strikingly apparent when Statistics Canada figures compare immigration patterns to the provinces.

Other education department policies to augment the use of French in the non-public sector have so far proven effective and valuable. For example, should Jewish schools accept the department's recommendations and financial assistance, the entire Jewish pupil population attending parochial schools, will be instructed in French by 1981. Greek newcomers, as well, have opted for this form of linguistic advancement, and in their school. French language instruction is coupled with ethnic studies.

To compel a non-English immigrant to send his child to a French school would only cause unhappy resistance, further alienating a settler before he has even secured his roots in Quebec life. The government would be more reasonable to inform a potential immigrant -- while in the country of his origin -- that Quebec society places great stress on the willingness and determination of a newcomer to adapt in the French language. This commitment to French should play an important part of the evaluation process in the government's acceptance of the newcomer as a settler to Quebec.

In 1970, just prior to the Liberal election win, Justice Minister Jerome Choquette promised a code of human rights for the province, a promise that was repeated by Premier Robert Bourassa when he met with a delegation from the Canadian Jewish Congress last January. During 1973, the government has explained that no human rights code could be forthcoming until the Gendron Commission on the French language completed its deliberations. Yet, despite publication of the report, the public is still waiting.

If the declaration of human rights is being delayed because the government's language policy is not compatable with such a code, the government must re-evaluate its policies. To delay a human rights code in order to enact policies which are disputable under a declaration is unacceptable, and has no place in a democratic society. Quebec is one of two provinces in all of Canada with no bill of rights, and without a provincial charter the federal code loses its impact. Citizens have the right and freedom to their privacy, their access to public places, security of person, and have these safeguards protected by law.

Any form of discrimination -- be it for ethnic, religious or linguistic excuses -- is intolerable in Quebec. The government's unwillingness to legislate a declaration of human rights is equally intolerable.

Actress Diana Rigg, best-known for her roles in the TV series, "The Avengers" and "Diana", visits Israeli soldiers in front of a missile boat. She was touring Israel with her painter-husband Menahem Gefen. While there, she entertained some troops. (IPPA)

ask the rabbi

Is seance attendance permitted?

1. Is it permitted to attend a seance in view of the biblical prohibition of "inquiring after the dead?"

It goes without saying spiritualism as a religion with hymns and Christian references, is incompatible with Judaism. Presumably you mean attendance at a seance out of curiosity or as an investigation into psychic phenomena. Rabbi Kook was, indeed, once asked whether it might not be a mitzvah to attend a seance and so strengthen one's faith in the after-life. Now the Talmud (Sanh. 65b) defines "inquiring after the dead" as "one who starves himself and spends the night in a cemetery, so that an unclean spirit may rest upon him." Thus the prohibition is understood as being associated with idolatrous and magical practices of a demonic nature. This explains the strange ruling attributed to Rabbi Eliezer of Metz (CR. 1115-CR. 1198) that it is only forbidden to consult the "body" of the dead and not his "soul".

The Shulchan Aruch (Yoreh Deah 197; 14) rules it is permitted to make a man on his death-bed promise to return to earth after his death in order to be consulted about the future. This is because the promise was extracted while the man was still alive and there has been no attempt to consult the dead. But Rabbi Moses Isserles in his note to this adds that "some authorities" (i.e. Rabbi Eliezer of Metz) permit it even after death. So that one cannot say that attendance at a seance is categorically forbidden.

Yet Rabbi Kook frowned on attempts to "strengthen faith" in this way and encouraged his questioner not to dabble in these matters.

What Really Happened

Religious ardor brightened harsh Prairie life for family

By A.J. ARNOLD

A.J. Arnold

Homestead life was harsh all over the west in the 1880s and 90s. But for the family of Hersh and Eva Paul, religious ardor brightened their lives. They gathered around the Sabbath table each Friday eve and a few fermented raisins provided wine for the Kiddush. God was thanked for the bitter bannock and potato kugel that graced the coarse but snowy white cloth.

Like most Jews, the Pauls were concerned about giving their children an education. Great despair was caused, therefore, when the government turned down the building of a school because the minimum of 11 students was lacking. Some of the Mennonites in the neighborhood had agreed to enroll their children but withdrew at the last minute. They were instilled with the fear that their children would become "Englander".

Overcoming their disappointment the Pauls carried on with their traditions to guide them. On stormy winter nights, a lamp was left in the window to light the way for passing strangers. And a small bag of sugar cubes was hoarded for those special occasions when a passing peddlar stopped to share their hospitality.

Once a storm-stranded peddlar stayed for three days. The Pauls were too proud to reveal the true extent of their poverty. Annie, who at that time did not have a dress of her own, but only a long shirt made of a flour sack, was compelled to stay in bed and pretend illness.

Eva Paul died of typhoid fever at the age of 38, leaving her husband with nine children, including an infant daughter of three weeks. She was buried in Winnipeg's first Jewish cemetery at Transcona.

By January 1897, Lizzie and her oldest brother were married and had left the farm. The third child was disabled, and so at the age of 13, Annie became the housekeeper, and mother to five younger children. She milked nine cows and fed 40 head of cattle, melting snow in winter to water them.

Towards the end of 1897, the Paul family left the farm and moved back to Winnipeg where father Hirsch opened a dairy on the outskirts of the city. He also spent some time as a fisherman near Winnipeg's Louise bridge. He used nets and caught the famous Winnipeg Goldeye which he smoked himself and sold to wholesale grocers for 25¢ per dozen.

This is just part of the story of the Paul family. Apart from telling what life was like in those days, it establishes that some single Jewish families did begin homesteading in Manitoba as early as 1887. Efforts to establish a Jewish group settlement in this province, which were started in 1882, did not succeed for 20 years. It was in Saskatchewan, then part of Assiniboia Territory, that the earliest Jewish group settlements were attempted.

As this series continues the documentary record of group settlement, efforts will be interwoven with more pioneer stories. The Paul family story, based primarily on the reminiscences of the two sisters Lizzie Brownstone and Annie Swartzman, was submitted by their children for the occasion of the 50th anniversary banquet of Canadian Jewish Congress in Winnipeg in 1969.

Many similar stories were gathered for that event which honored hundreds of Jewish pioneers, 75 years of age or over, who had been resident in the west 50 years or longer. These stories formed the basis of the oral history collection of taped interviews which has since been developed by the Jewish Historical Society of Western Canada in Winnipeg.

Jewish pioneers are now being interviewed for oral history projects in different parts of the country. There are at least two underway in Toronto. The Jewish Historical Society of B.C. is doing some oral history interviews in Vancouver and some pioneers of Vegreville, Alberta were interviewed last summer. On the east coast the Jewish Historical Society of Halifax is believed to be doing some interviews. (The friend who inquired about Maritime Jewish history is referred to the first rate article by Jan Goeb, in **Viewpoints Magazine**'s special edition on the Jews of Canada published in Montreal earlier this year.)

The Canadian Jewish News and this writer would certainly like to hear more about what is happening in the recording of Canadian Jewish history.

Next: London, Montreal and Toronto, and the Jewish immigrants of 1882.

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Zionist education furore

By ROYSTON ALLEN
CJN Israel Correspondent

JERUSALEM -

"Zionism for the Israelis" would be a good title for the new education ministry campaign aimed at bringing a crash Zionist education and current events program to local schools.

Apparently the ministry feels the ideological fibre of Israeli youngsters is severely lacking -- the children are not getting enough information about recent Jewish history, why the state exists and especially about the Zionist revolution.

Apparently this came to a head during the Yom Kippur War when children started asking their teachers "How long will we have to fight? Is there something wrong with us that the world is always against us? Why is there no peace here?" and "What are we fighting for and is it worth dying for?"

The English-language daily **The Jerusalem Post** recently carried an article and interview with a top education ministry official on this subject.

Personal assistant to the minister Dan Rosen admitted that often the school teachers themselves were lacking in knowledge about Zionism, the whys and wherefores of the movement which resulted in the modern Jewish state of Israel.

Because of this, he said, Israeli youngsters are "easy prey for extremists, particularly from the left . . . If we don't give them answers, someone else will and they may be completely vulnerable without any means of their own to evaluate what they hear."

Just what answers the ministry will provide will take time to work out and then the interpretation will be completely in the hands of the individual teacher who will "be less neutral and try and have the child identify with Jewish and Zionist values."

A question immediately springing to mind is what about Arab school children. But even the Jewish kids are liable to be up against conflicting statements, opinions and viewpoints.

A good example of one hand not knowing what the other is doing is the recent case of an advisory pamphlet circulated among a number of schools, advising teachers to prepare their pupils for the emotional shock of returning the occupied territories.

The existence of such a pamphlet was hotly denied by top ministry officials. After a few days the denial was shamefacedly withdrawn.

Just what light would be shed on the right wing Zionist groups? Will Lechi and the Stern group be glamorized or what?

These decisions will have to be carefully scrutinized by truly impartial bodies (if such a thing exists).

Feeds blackmailer's appetite

Victory of UN helped set stage for Rome slaughter of innocents

It is only a few days ago that the General Assembly of the United Nations gave another example of the sickness that affects its deliberations by postponing action on international terrorism. Ever since aerial hijacking became epidemic and innocent persons became murder victims of Arab guerrillas, Israel, with very little help from other nations, has been trying to get the world body to act on the question of terrorism.

By sidestepping its responsibility, the General Assembly yielded to the pressure of the Arab and Soviet Union blocs, ignoring the plea of Dr. Shabtai Rosenne, a member of Israel's General Assembly delegation, that international gangsterism must not be allowed to continue unchallenged.

In the light of the Rome airport massacre last Monday in which 31 persons were machine-gunned by Arab guerrillas, there was a prophetic ring to what Dr. Rosenne told the General Assembly's Sixth (Legal) Committee.

"Each surrender to blackmail and the demands of terrorists only increases their appetites and leads to new acts of terrorism and new extortions," he said.

The answer of Vladimir Fedorov, the Soviet delegate, was that the time had come to erase the issue of international gangsterism from the agenda, to bury it. The pro-Arabs and the indecisive neutralists didn't want to go this far, so they swept the question under the rug for another year.

The pro-Arab contingent had won another victory, a victory that helped set the stage for the senseless slaughter of the innocents at Rome Airport. And there will be more, for as Dr. Rosenne said, surrender to blackmail feeds the appetite of those who use terrorism and murder to achieve their ends.

The hurt that lasts for life

By JUDY CARR

JERUSALEM -

In the sad aftermath of war, when the nation has bound up its wounds and regained a precarious pseudo-normality, there are some whose hurt will last a lifetime and even affect future generations -- the war widows. In the Yom Kippur War, the brunt was borne by the younger men. Many of the new generation of Israel's war widows are scarcely out of their teens.

The legend of the war widows was highlighted after the Six Day War. The widow was placed on a pedestal as a lonely, tragic figure, with a halo of glamor. This is illustrated in the film "The Siege" with Gila Almagor playing the part of the widowed heroine who finds fresh happiness, only to see her second husband going out to fight on the borders in the latest war.

Actually the life of the widows is more dusty than glamorous. They receive pensions -- but certainly not sufficient money to stay at home with their children without working. Before the war, a mother of three children received in the region of $270 a month. A woman in this position ... have to go out to work although by the time I have paid bus fares and other expenses it is scarcely worth it. They say that work is good from the point of view of therapy -- and how else are we to meet people? But do the bureaucrats dealing with our affairs realize what it costs to feed and clothe three children?"

A widow from the fashionable circles of Tel Aviv said that she was no longer invited to parties and social gatherings, where she might have had a chance of meeting eligible men. Further -- her friends respected and admired her efforts to create a life for herself and her children, but they offered little moral support. She was left to her "loneliness on a pedestal" when she would much rather have been taken out to a night club or a theatre and made to feel human again.

In the Six Day War, the sum total of casualties was under 800, which would have meant a few hundred widows. But now, with more than 2,000 dead in the Yom Kippur War, the problem has reached gigantic dimensions. There will be a need for a re-thinking of pension policies, many more creches for the children of working mothers, more voluntary helpers -- maybe new government programs of assistance.

Much of the help being given to the widows of the Yom Kippur War is coming from the widows of the previous wars.

WZO Press Service

Letters to the Editor

Beth Sholom Synagogue is praised for 'its Jewish family spirit' to singles

Dear Editor:

Cheers to the "sholom" feeling which is being extended to the Jewish community by one of our leading congregations, the Beth Sholom Synagogue.

Here in Toronto's Beth Sholom, one-parent heads of families, singles, separated, divorced, and widowed people are experiencing a feeling of belonging, and are welcomed to come together in a dignified environment.

As Miriam Herman, **What's New (The Canadian Jewish News**, Dec. 14) suggests, "for information call the synagogue office on Eglinton Avenue West."

The Beth Sholom Synagogue's "Jewish family spirit" in offering their staff and facilities to singles is refreshingly outstanding in extending new faith and hope to all those people who have a need for this service.

H. Max Selden,
Toronto

Barrie anyone?

Dear Editor:

We would like to find out the names of Jewish families in Barrie or if there are people planning to move here.

Presently, only approximately a dozen families are here, but we have heard more are planning to come.

It is possible the number of people could be substantial as many other smaller centres near Toronto have recently gained significant Jewish population.

Without wishing to delve too deeply into the social phenomena for this, I would like to point out briefly why we are investigating this matter now.

There are many large subdivisions being built here. The cost of decent accommodations, especially for young marrieds just starting out in Toronto, has reached an astronomical level. We thought perhaps a group of friends or relatives might be thinking of getting together and moving here enmasse.

Barrie like the other small centres (e.g. Oshawa) is near enough to Toronto that you don't have to give up family and old friends completely.

Also, there must be others like ourselves that enjoy nature, fresh air and a quieter life pace, items that appear to be growing scarce in Metro. This we know for sure, as a mere 15 minutes away down in Belle Ewart and environs, there appears to be a summer-time Bathurst Street.

Anyone reading this and planning to move to this area or knowing of someone planning to move to Barrie, may we extend an invitation to contact us.

Mr. & Mrs. Alex Finkelstein,
Baycrest Drive, R.R. #1,
Barrie, Ont. L4M 4Y8
Phone: 726-1636.

Another breeder

Dear Editor:

I enjoyed reading Elaine Kahn's article, Nov. 29/73 regarding Reuben Dennis and his prized Holstein cows.

However, to set the record straight. Mr. Dennis is not the only Jewish Holstein breeder of cattle in Canada as stated in your article.

I come from an agriculture family and am proud of this fact, and am also proud to own many prized Holstein cattle, including as many first prize ribbons at this year's Royal Winter Fair as Mr. Dennis had.

Furthermore, I do much of my own work with the cattle and depend on agriculture for my living.

I also have many Jewish relatives in Ontario who also make their living from the breeding of Holstein cattle; their only income.

Paul Ekstein,
Willowdale

Questions concert

Dear Editor:

It was reported that $50 million worth of state of Israel Bonds were purchased this year in Canada while the Israeli's themselves subscribed to half a billion dollars worth of bonds.

My question is: Why go to such great expense to entertain us at the O'Keefe Centre when I am sure the money could have been put to better use. After all, we Canadian Jews regard buying bonds as our duty while the Israelis are going through terrible hardships and making great sacrifices without expecting to be entertained.

Hilda Reiss,
Toronto

He predicted an Israel-Arab alliance

Ben-Gurion's philosophy revealed in writings over 20 years

These are some of the thoughts and reflections of the late David Ben-Gurion as culled from his writings and statements over the last 20 years.

The Jewish community of Plonsk consisted of three elements. The poor were small merchants, shopkeepers, peddlars. My own family belonged to the middle or professional group, neither rich nor poor, but comfortably off. From this social level came the intellectuals, the free-thinkers, socialists, scholars and Zionists.

The Chassidim, mostly prosperous, considered themselves an elite and to prove it lived slightly apart from the rest of us. They attended their own synagogue, kept to themselves. Only two of their number became Zionists at the time the movement was sweeping our part of the Jewish world. The rest thundered against Zionism's activist philosophy and forced the two converts to leave town hastily. Whenever any Jew departed for Palestine, the Chassidim sat shiva for seven days as though he had died.

What about anti-Semitism in all this? For my generation, it played only an indirect role in our desire to emigrate. I personally never suffered anti-Semitic persecution. Plonsk was remarkably free of it, or at least the Jews felt well protected in the cocoon of their community life.

Nevertheless, and I think this very significant, it was Plonsk that sent the highest proportion of Jews to Eretz Israel from any town in Poland of comparable size. We emigrated not for negative reasons of escape but for the positive purpose of rebuilding a homeland, a place where we wouldn't be perpetual strangers and that through our toil would become irrevocably our own.

I am not religious, nor were the majority of the early builders of modern Israel believers. Yet their passion for this land stemmed from the Book of Books. That is why the socialists of the Bilu movement named themselves with reference to Ezra. And it is why, though I reject theology, the single most important book in my life is the Bible.

'Today ... as Jews and humans, we must have an end to destruction and bloodshed.'

Like many Jews, no doubt because of early traditional training, I have a fondness for study. I have read in various cultures, all of which have made me richer as an individual. I have learned Greek so that I could enjoy Plato for whom I have deep respect and who has given me many happy and speculative hours. I have also studied Hindu and Buddhist thought.

From Plato, one learns elegance in reasoning; from Hinduism humility; from Buddhism the peace that comes of meditation. But from Torah one principally learns a moral activism that characterizes the Jews and that, I believe, has made them so admired and so detested whenever they have lived among others.

We must accept the facts. Zionist today no longer fits in with Zion. If Jews who do not intend to immigrate to Israel continue to insist on calling themselves Zionists, we cannot prevent them from doing so. But we must see the Jewish and "Zionist" realities of today as they are -- without deluding ourselves.

The Jewish state has already rallied almost the entire Jewish people around it in ties of love and pride. The desire to help bolster Israel materially and spiritually is no longer the exclusive purview of the World Zionist Organization -- to a certain extent it never was, even before the establishment of the state.

The state of Israel needs living contact with the Jewish people no less than did the Jewish community of this country before the state was established. The Jews who wish to go on living in the Diaspora need no less a living contact with the state.

It is only on recognition of these mutual bonds between our nation in the dispersion and our nation in our state that Jewish policy and world Jewish unity can be built in the period ahead. (1964).

Conglomerations like Tel Aviv are unnatural. They are destructive of the spirit Israel requires to remain true to itself. This country isn't just a Jewish hotel. It's a very special place with special demands on everyone who dwells on its soil.

And what Israel has to teach us is far more graspable out on the land and in small communities where each knows his neighbor, where there is a community solidarity born of long association and common experience, than it is in a huge beehive of a building jammed up against a hundred other beehives on a long, impersonal boulevard.

Again, the Negev can come into its own as a veritable laboratory for urbanists. We can easily accommodate five million people here. Yes, five million. And in spaciousness, comfort, calm, beauty. We can house them in small enough settlements to allow for survival of the neighborly spirit. We don't need living areas for more than 10 or 15 thousand in a given spot. And even so, as I say, there's room for no less than five million more. When they have come, when all the people have escaped from Tel Aviv and made their place here, then we won't have to worry about the Egyptians or anyone else shooting missiles at a single location and killing off half our populace.

I should like to make a point which for many historical and religious reasons has yet to be accepted in much of the world but the consciousness of which prevails in all that we have done and will yet do; we are a people like all other people, with the same rights and obligations. We are a small people, the majority of which does not now live in its homeland and may perhaps never return there, but those who do live in it do so not because they have conquered, plundered or pillaged something belonging to others, but because when we found our land again it was neglected -- not entirely unpopulated, but largely desolate.

We made this wilderness flourish by the sweat of our brow, by our stubborn and pioneering labor; we did not rob or take away a single inch of earth from those who worked it, but we did make the desert blossom.

When I first came to Palestine, the place where Tel Aviv, Israel's largest city now stands, it was a wilderness of sand dunes, without trees, without grass, without wild life, while nearby ran a stream which today irrigates even the kibbutz in the Negev on which I live, 50 kilometres south of Beersheba.

Fifty-nine years ago I worked as a hired hand in a place that was so uninhabited and abandoned that 20 Bedouin were scarcely able to support themselves in the area; today it is a kibbutz, the home of 500 working adults and hundreds of children, one of the most magnificent farms in the Jordan Valley, bearing the name of the lake by which it was built: Kinneret. (From a letter to President de Gaulle, 1967).

The first days at Sde Boker were very hard for me. I was out of physical condition. But one thing I determined to avoid was any special consideration from my fellow kibbutzniks. So I had tried to set myself to keeping pace with the best of them. How tired I was during those early weeks and how I had to struggle not to show it.

'Every human being must reach into himself to find his reason for existing.'

The Sde Boker kibbutz followed the normal pattern of assigning work in rotation. Lists of duties and those scheduled to do them were chalked on a blackboard every evening. When I first arrived I checked this board and found that while everyone else was listed by his or her first name it was set down that Mr. Ben-Gurion would tend the sheep. Well, I told the others that it wasn't Mr. Ben-Gurion who had come to the kibbutz but David, just David. So from then on every day I looked to see what David would do.

My attitude prompted the field foreman to test me out. He gave me some back-breaking chores to handle. I didn't let him know that I knew what he was doing. I worked as hard as I could. How hot it was: Like laboring in an oven. And yet, to tell the truth, I felt a deeper satisfaction with myself and my surroundings than I had in many a year. For me, pioneering is happiness. To be at peace with oneself and to struggle to accomplish work that one believes in and that bears on nature, what else can one ask of life?

In every conflict there comes a time when to settle is more important than to get everything you want. And the time has come to settle. Today, above else, as Jews and humans, we must have an end to destruction and bloodshed. We must look to the future. The moment has come for peace and we must seize it.

One reason I feel so strongly about the need for bold steps now towards a settlement is that I am certain eventual Israel-Arab co-operation is inevitable. In fact, an Israel-Arab alliance. Geography and history will make it so.

The Arabs of the Middle Ages were the most civilized race in the world. They have much to give us and I believe that we in turn have much to give them.

Now, with the pace of change so rapid and radical, Arab-Jewish partnership may come faster than we think and together we could turn the Middle East into one of the garden spots and great creative centres of the earth. (1971).

There is much to say on man's need for solitude. I think that one of the greatest assets of our kibbutz system is that although it constitutes a collective, it also has an innate sense of individual privacy. We work together but each man has the time and the occasion to face himself alone. This is most important. I personally have been much on my own and I do not regret it. Quite the contrary. Every human being must reach into himself to find his reason for existing. Now that I am older, I must face the prospect of death. A young man asked me not long ago whether I was afraid of dying. I answered the Talmudic trick of replying to a question with a question. "Will it help me if I'm afraid?" I asked him. "I know I have to die some day. So why should I fear it?"

Once upon a winter... in Apter Shteeble

By J.B. SALSBERG

(One of a Series)

That was a memorable winter in my early life, and chiefly because of my attendance at the Apter Shteeble for three evenings a week.

What's a 'shteeble? Shteeble is the diminutive of the word shtoob or, as pronounced by Polish Jews; shteeb. I am unsure whether it was also so in other Eastern European Jewish communities but in Poland the word 'shteeble' was usually applied to a small, Chassidic place of worship, study and friendship centre for the local followers of a given Chassidic rabbi. Many Polish Jewish shtetlech had, for instance, a Gerer Shteeble for the followers of the popular Gerer Rabbi.

But the shteeble I speak of had nothing to do with Chassidic exclusiveness. It was but a small synagogue established by the early Jewish immigrants from the town of Apt, which, in turn, was a Yiddish abbreviation of the town of Opatov. (Through the centuries, Polish Jews shortened and added a Yiddish flavor to the older names of the Shtetlech.)

My relationship with the Apter Shteeble occured during the First World War. The relatively small Toronto Jewish community of that period contained thousands of new immigrants who arrived preceding that war. Most of the newcomers came from Poland and a lot of them found that the war shattered their plans to bring their families to the new land. Others, who were planning to return to the "old country," were, of course, unable to do so. As a result there were a lot of lonely men in our midst. The shteeble of one's own townsfolk and the fraternal or war-relief society of landsleit helped to fill many voids. It provided a warm, hospitable haven for the lonely and the unacclimatized immigrants in the strange, new land.

For economic and social reasons the majority of Toronto's Jews crowded into the seedy, down-at-the-heels, low-rent area bounded by Yonge, Queen, University and Gerrard Streets. The centre of life was along Agnes St. (now Dundas) from Yonge to University. While the tender sprouts of the Jewish secular, radical and labor plants cropped up beyond the borders of the new shteti, the hard core of old world shteti people were very content with the new shtetle environment that had come into being.

The new synagogues and shteeblech located themselves in the heart of the Jewish district. Chestnut St., Centre

J. B. Salsberg

Ave., Elm-Gerrard-Walton Streets, at the Elizabeth St. intersection, were dotted with shteeblech. The Apter Shteeble was on Centre Ave. just a bit below Agnes St. - right in the centre of things Jewish then.

What did the Apter Shteeble look like? It was perhaps a bit more spacious than most, otherwise it could serve as an example of what they all were like. A tired, frame cottage -- centre entrance -- had all its partitioning walls removed so that it became one large room. The room was clean but devoid of all color or decoration.

A simple, wooden cupboard served as the ark that was draped with an unpretentious bit of cloth. A few salvaged wooden tables, of grandmother's kitchen variety, were scattered about. Only the centre table that served as a "bima" during the reading of the Torah had a covering cloth. A couple of dozen non-descript, second-hand, wooden kitchen chairs and a substantial, pot-bellied self-heater (pronounced "salifeter"), completed the furnishing. Four naked, medium-sized electric bulbs hung from the ceiling. A few well-used and often incomplete prayer books (most people brought their own anyway) and a humble collection of "sforim" (basic Judaic literature) was there to satisfy the souls and spirits of the few who sought such satisfaction.

And that was the Apter Shteeble that I, a freshly hatched teenager, came to a few evenings a week all winter long, and, believe it or not, I still cherish the experience.

What brought me there? What did I do when I came? Who else was there? The answers to these and other questions will all be given in full as this chronicle unfolds.

Mad love for cars prompts 'murderous creatures' to continue car-stealing despite war's halt of crime

By CHAIM BERMANT

JERUSALEM (JCNS) -

When the war broke out, Israel's criminal community shut up shop and went out of business. There was no theft, no extortion, no rape and one could spent a week in Tel Aviv's Carmel Market, which is said to be operated by the Oriental branch of the Mafia, without even having your pockets picked. Only one crime continued to flourish -- indeed to increase -- car-stealing, and I suspect that one of the reasons it continued to flourish is that it is not entirely regarded as a crime.

The Israeli, though a fairly benign individual on foot, is, once he gets inside a motorized vehicle, the most murderous creature ever to be let loose on the public and hardly a day passes without reports of slaughter on the highway. They are so consistant and familiar a phenomenon that they're like the weather reports. Indeed one can almost see them appearing in the same column: "Humidity, 63. Temperature, 15 - 25. Slaughter, 7."

Now, if fatalities were merely a matter of motorists killing each other, there would be little to complain of -- one might, indeed, be inclined to cheer them on -- but in the main they mow down pedestrians and not only in the roadway.

I don't know what proportion there is of cars to the general population, but the way things are going they should outnumber them soon. And they are parked everywhere, in restricted zones, in non-parking zones, on the pavements and if they should find ways of going up the stairs, you'll find them parked on your front balcony. During the blackout I kept tripping over one of those mini-motorbikes parked on the pavement near the government press office.

Why, you may ask, don't the pedestrians organize themselves and do something about it? Well, one reason is that a great many pedestrians are in hospitals, but in the main, I suspect that most pedestrians here would not admit to being any such thing, but regard themselves as motorists in a temporary vehicle-less condition.

The motor car is the sacred cow of Israel. More, it is the Moloch to which they commit daily human sacrifices. During the war I was interested to see what the soldiers' billets looked like, and found the walls plastered not with the usual array of what the papers call "cheese-cake" (I can see the dairy connection, but why cheese-cake?) but with cars, Fords, Fiats, Cadillacs, Jags, in all sorts of alluring shapes and inviting positions. No wonder the first thing many a soldier does when he gets leave is to make off with somebody else's car.

(There's the story of the Beersheba equivalent of the Mademoiselle from Armentiers who drove into Sinai in a gleaming new Volvo to bring comfort to the troops and was found stranded the next morning without her car. When they speak of carnal knowledge round here, they mean knowledge of cars.)

Earnings are lower in Israel than in England and cars cost about three times as much (a Ford Escort, for example, costs about $8,400. The Volvo, which is the Rolls of Israel, costs about as much as a Rolls). Some will live in slums, go in rags, starve their wives and children, hold two or three jobs, take in lodgers and laundry, all in order to get their hands on a vehicle.

They may, by the time they've bought it, not have the money to run it, but then in most cases they don't have to. Public transport is generously subsidized and whatever one may say about Egged (and I shall be saying it in due course) buses are (or were, before half of them were mobilized by the army) frequent, inexpensive and fast. (If anything they were too fast and Egged could fairly claim to get you there "dead" on time.)

Thus, running one's car is of almost secondary importance. The main thing is to have it, and to be seen to be having it and many people seem to spend more time under their cars and on them, than in them. I have never seen a mechanical device treated with such loving, almost passionate, care. They don't wash cars round here, they manicure them and I have a feeling that in some cases they spray them with lavender water.

There's no public transport here on Shabbat so the car comes into its own then. But most people I know don't drive on Shabbat and those that do are now being urged by the government, because of the fuel shortage, to keep their cars immobile.

After which you may feel compelled to ask if I have a car? Me? Not likely. I walk.

Success against an overwhelming enemy overlooked as Zahal's image damaged

By MOSHE RON
CJN Jerusalem Correspondent

JERUSALEM -

The Yom Kippur War has been the most difficult which Israel has had to fight. The high number of casualties alone are proof.

Unusual circumstances and steps taken before the war have resulted in damaging Zahal's image during the early days of the war, that is the military leadership, but not the soldiers in the field.

A certain pessimism was felt among the population and people began asking questions as to the steps taken by the government and military leadership before the outbreak of war. While the press provided daily evidence for these doubts, the population's morale sank rapidly. People even disregarded the opinions of the greatest journalists and military experts all over the world who stated in the international press that the Israeli army had won a greater victory than in the Six Day War.

In that war, the Israeli air force had liquidated the whole Egyptian air force and air bases within a few hours. That led to the quick destruction of the Egyptian forces.

In the Yom Kippur War, Israel had been attacked on two fronts by hundreds of thousands of Egyptian and Syrian soldiers, thousands of tanks, planes and rockets. Zahal, after mobilizing reserves, not only succeeded in repulsing the enemy on both fronts but had also taken vast territories in Syria and Egypt on the other side of the Suez Canal.

The most well-informed international military experts have stated that the tactics in the Israeli army's fighting in stopping an enemy, tenfold superior in numbers, and carrying the war into enemy territory, would be carefully studied by strategic commands all over the world.

One should not overlook the activities of small extreme leftist groups. All these groups are trying to take advantage of the present situation in order to stir up a campaign against Moshe Dayan, putting the responsibility on him for the events leading to the Yom Kippur War, and demanding his immediate resignation.

The government has set up a judicial investigation committee headed by the president of the Supreme Court Dr. Shimon Agranat, to investigate the matter. However, students, young professors and political groups are demanding the immediate dismissal of Dayan, and do not wish to await the commission's findings. Demonstrations have even been organized in this matter.

This campaign has encouraged many well-known personalities and journalists to start a counter-campaign in the press, defending Moshe Dayan and his policy. Former air force commander Dan Tulkowsky wrote in **Ha'aretz** that the policy of open bridges and generally raising the standard of living among the Arab population in the occupied territories, adopted by Moshe Dayan, has proved to be the right one. It has prevented one million Arabs, living under Israeli rule, from co-operating with the terrorists on a large scale.

Some journalists have warned the population not to listen to small groups, wishing to make political capital out of Dayan's broken image and instigating a witch-hunt against him. Even personalities who have not shared Dayan's view in the past, have joined these warnings in order not to undermine public morale. They argue, that if one criticizes Dayan, one also attacks, directly or indirectly, the Zahal command and Premier Golda Meir. Extreme leftist groups are also demanding the dismissal of Golda Meir and Israel Galili.

The campaign has been welcomed by many sections of the population in order to reject accusations, rumors and doubts, which only serve the interests of the enemy. Unfortunately, in the public dispute about the mistakes made on the eve of the October war, military secrets have leaked out and the time had come to start a campaign against it and to put an end to it. All this is considered a necessary part of a democratic system. This new campaign has at least succeeded in raising the population's morale and creating a better atmosphere in the country.

Israeli soldiers stationed on the West Bank of the Suez Canal rest on Egyptian furniture. In the background is a picture of President Sadat of Egypt. (Photograph by Israel Sun)

Organizations and People

By MIRIAM HERMAN

what's new...

JEWS FROM ARAB LANDS

Rabbi Mitchell Serels writes from New York, where he is associate director of Sephardic Community Activities at Yeshiva University, that he is in the process of formition of Jews born in the A1 will be putting forth claims against Arab governments for confiscated property and valuables, particularly Libya, Egypt, Syria and Iraq. The rabbi may be contacted at 638-6756 or at 18 Cedarcroft Ave., Willowdale. The association has been given official recognition by the World Jewish Congress and the World Sephardi Federation, and is under the direction of Sephardic leader Rabbi Solomon Gaon.

PERETZ SCHOOLS' CONCERT

More than 300 persons attended the Chanukah program put on by all three branches of the Workmen's Circle Peretz Schools at Denlow Public School recently. About 100 students, ages 7 - 14, were involved. They presented a play, **A Chanukah Dream**, accompanied by a 60-voice student choir. A candlelighting ceremony and a speech by Joseph Meslin on behalf of the Parent-Teacher Association, (the parents helped make the costumes), rounded out the program. The event spearheaded plans for additional classes at the school's Denlow branch including adult evening courses. A Peretz radio course in Yiddish is also in the offing. The concert was co-ordinated by Peretz school principal Michael Fiszman and school committee headed by Carol Langbord with much assistance from Denlow principal Barry Griffiths.

MEDICAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Canadian chapter of the Israel Medical Association scheduled for Monday, Jan. 7, features Toronto orthopedic surgeons Drs. Allan Gross and Fred Langer as guest speakers. Just returned from three weeks in Israel, they will be talking about their experiences as volunteer medics attached to military hospitals there. The meeting is at 8:30 p.m. at the Zionist Centre, Marlee Ave.

FUND-RAISING FOR ISRAEL

Stashover Slipia Synagogue's special fund-raiser for Israel was a huge success. The 125-family congregation raised $5,000 at a dinner recently. The dinner, with 100 men in attendance, was under the chairmanship of vice-president Joe Spring and Solly Hauer. Sisterhood members headed by president Bertha Spring purchased, prepared and served the food.

JEWISH CAMPING CONFERENCE

A national conference on Jewish camping is set for Jan. 6 - 9 at Grossinger's Hotel, New York. The conference is open to all directors and staff members of camps under Jewish auspices. Joseph Friedman of Montreal's 'Y' Country Camp, and Michael Silverman, director of camping services at the Toronto 'Y', are participating in the program.

JUBILEE BANQUET

The Driltzer Young Men's Mutual Benefit Society celebrates its 40th jubilee banquet Saturday, Jan. 5, at Beth Torah Synagogue, Glenbrook Ave.

ARAB-HEBREW LANGUAGE COURSE

The same day that the Egyptian-Israeli prisoner of war exchange got under way, some 230 Jerusalemites, both Jewish and Arab, began their studies of Hebrew and Arabic at the Hebrew University. This teaching program, begun shortly after the Six Day War, is given under the auspices of the university's Martin Buber Adult Education Centre. Originally planned solely as a language teaching project, it has become a cultural and social vehicle for Arabs and Jews.

THEATRE SEASON

According to Muriel Gold, Saidye Bronfman Centre Theatre artistic director, the Montréal theatre's 1973-74 subscription campaign was the most successful since the theatre opened in 1967. Under campaign manager Goldie Aaron, the drive surpassed its goal of 3,000 subscribers this year -- an increase of 90% over last year.

SOUTH AMERICAN JEWRY

Chilean Jews honored Israeli soldiers killed in the Yom Kippur War at a memorial service at Santiago's Circulo Israelita Temple. More than 1,000 persons were present at the service which was addressed by Israeli ambassador to Chile Moshe Tov.

A plenary meeting of the Latin American Jewish Congress held recently in Buenos Aires was attended by an estimated 1,000 delegates. Resolutions supporting Israel, condemning the Soviet Union and calling for support of Latin American governments and peoples were adopted by acclamation.

SHOMER SHABBOS AND SUNDAY

There's a gasoline station in Chicago that claims it is the only "Shomer Shabbos" station in town. With Sunday driving in the U.S. fast becoming a no-no, its likely that the station will be closing on Sunday too.

Volunteer tells of his Israel experiences

By MARCIA SINGER

TORONTO -

Mark Resnick, 23, can't find the one word to pinpoint exactly what it was like to be in Israel during the Yom Kippur War.

Instead, the York University graduate, one of Toronto's first volunteers to Israel, reiterated the familiar phrases -- the war-of-nerves atmosphere, the country's determination to survive and its overwhelming anger at its Arab attackers.

Mark is the first Toronto volunteer to return. Because of his position as national director of Canadian Young Judaea, he cut short his expected six month stay for volunteers this month.

His decision to go to Israel just a week after Yom Kippur was a "gut reaction." He explained that the Jewish state was, for him, the place to be to help during the war.

He also had spent the previous year on a kibbutz and had many Israeli friends.

"My immediate thoughts were about my friends. It was much easier emotionally for me to be there, knowing what was happening," he said.

Now, relaxing in his basement office at the Zionist Centre, the volunteer described his arrival at Lod Airport.

"Like ramming into a brick wall," he stated seriously. "There was a blackout. I didn't realize we had reached Israel until about 10 minutes before landing."

That realization came when he noticed a number of military craft surrounding the passenger plane and escorting it onto the runway.

Shock? At the time, said Mark, he was thinking, "I hope those planes are ours."

The next day, the volunteer travelled to Kibbutz Ma'ayan Tzvi, just north of Caesarea, where, he said, he received an incredible welcome.

Not just because he had lived on this kibbutz the previous year. But, he said, because the Israelis were "really happy there were people from outside who were willing to come all that way."

And although the kibbutz, situated in the middle of the country close to the Mediterranean Sea and called "safe" by the volunteer, it too showed signs of the war.

Fighter planes passed overhead daily to and from northern missions, said Mark, while he was tending the fish ponds. All windows were taped so that, in case of bombing, no glass would shatter.

During the day, he said, everyone would walk around listening to transistor radios for the latest news bulletin and after supper they would crowd in front of the television for the evening news.

Kibbutzniks, he said, were determined to continue the settlement's economic activities -- fish ponds, a plastics factory, vegetable fields -- during the war. Mark said he often started work at 6 a.m. and continued till 6 p.m., breaking only for meals.

The nervous and melancholy atmosphere that permeated the kibbutz did not disperse after the cease-fire.

"There was a temporary sigh of relief. And then the war of the nerves began," Mark said.

"The men are still out there (on the fronts) and the war atmosphere is still there. Israel is now poised like a cat."

Tel Aviv, also, has not returned to its normal self.

Evenings are still quiet in the city and there are fewer people strolling along Dizengoff, the main street known for its crowded sidewalks.

But, he added, you have to look closely to see that all the young men are gone.

And because of this manpower shortage, he emphasized that volunteers are still needed. There are now several programs which range from a one month's stay to a special three month stint picking citrus fruits to the regular six month visit.

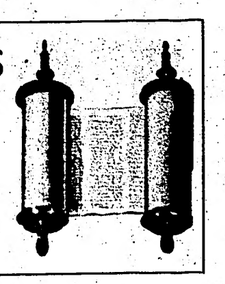
Mark plans to immigrate to Israel either this summer or the next.

PEACE in '74

Brotherly love with nations in harmony.

Chutzpah kosher to save child

sparks from the torah



By RABBI MEIR GOTTESMAN

Ki avdecho orav et ha'naar . . . For thy servant became surety for the lad . . .

Joseph wanted to test whether his brothers, who sold him into Egyptian slavery because they were jealous of him, were truly penitent. He hatched a scheme whereby the youngest brother, little Benjamin, was accused of stealing. Joseph announced that as punishment, he would hold Benjamin as a slave in Egypt.

The brothers were shocked and silent. Then Judah arose and let out a roar that could be heard for miles, and began arguing for the release of the youngster. Why did Judah take the lead? Because it was he who took responsibility for Benjamin to leave their father Jacob's home in Canaan.

The question is, what was Judah so angry about? When Joseph told the brothers that he would hold Benjamin as a slave, he didn't mean he would work him to the bone . . . On the contrary. Benjamin had a good "yiddishe kup" -- a bright lad. He would have become a palace servant, well dressed, well fed -- almost like a prince himself. But the answer was that Judah was not worried about Benjamin's comfort, but his Jewishness . . . How could Benjamin resist the temptations of his surroundings . . .

But, as the commentary Avnei Ozel explains, there is more to the story. F

Jewish child is a Benjamin or a Rachel. And every Jew is an orev -- responsible to see that our young generations of Jews is brought up according to our Torah and traditions. We live in a wonderful democracy where there is freedom and prosperity -- but the temptations for our youth to assimilate and lose the "pintele Yid" do not have to be elaborated. What should we do? There are those who shrug their shoulders and silently say, what can be done, it's a new world . . .

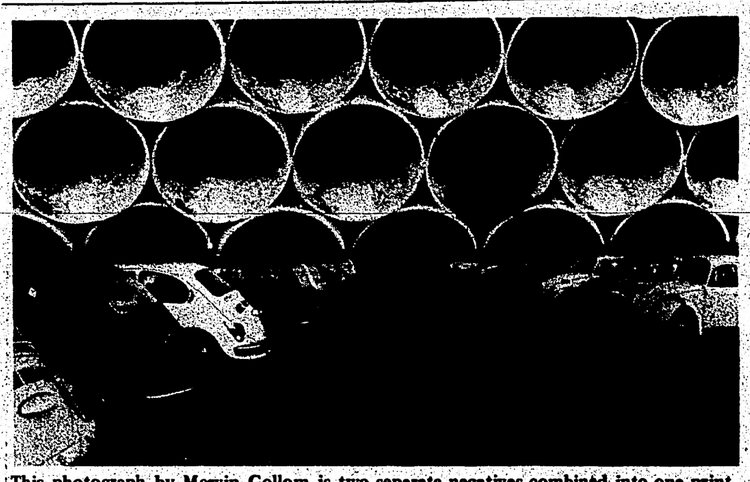
Judah roared! Judah stood up to fight! Judah said, I am the surety . . . Judah stood up to the viceroy with chutzpah -- what, a Jewish child is at stake!

Even more. Judah cried, "How shall I go up to my father (Jacob), when the child is not with me . . ." Every Jew must say the same thing. After 120 years, how shall I return to my father in heaven, even if I have been an observant Jew myself, if I cannot also show that I have brought my child "with me" . . . according to the Jewish way.

It is not hard to inspire our youth to Judaism -- on one condition -- if we teach them the real thing, the real Torah and mitzvot. There is a Midrash that tells that when Joseph was young, an Egyptian woman tried to seduce him. Joseph was already to succumb to her. Suddenly, when they were almost ready to perform the deed, the image of Joseph's father, Jacob, suddenly appeared, and this prevented Joseph from sinning.

Imagine, if Joseph had spiritual nearsightedness. Imagine if Joseph would never have been able to focus on the real image of the true Jacob -- he would never have stopped. It was because he saw the real Jacob, he was inspired. If we teach our children real Shabbat, real Kashruth, in the home and also outside, and if we Jews not only preach to our children but practice with them, we will have our Benjamins. Shabbat Shalom.

...about people



This photograph by Mervin Gollom is two separate negatives combined into one print. It is really sewer pipes on a sidewalk and rows of cars parked on Commissioners Street.

Toronto pharmacist and amateur photographer **Mervin Gollom** opens his second exhibition of photography Friday, Jan. 11, at Downsview Public Library. His first exhibit was at Beth Tikvah Synagogue last year. This new show runs the gamut in subject material from Devon and Cornwall in England to Israel to downtown Toronto. The show runs to Jan. 31, and from there it goes to Yorkdale Public Library during February, Bathurst Public Library in March and York Wood Public Library in April.

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Word from London, England -- In a Gallup Poll just published by **The London Telegraph, Golda Meir** topped the list as "the most admired woman in 1973." The Israeli prime minister came in first with 24% of the votes, displacing **Queen Elizabeth** from the number one spot. The queen, who had headed the poll since 1969, got 12% of the votes cast.

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The singing Chassidic rabbi, **Shlomo Carlebach**, is featured in a repeat broadcast of a concert he did on CBC-AM network's Concern last year. The program is to be heard for the first time in stereo FM Friday, Dec. 28, at 6:30 p.m. on Radio International.

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A World War II hero who headed Marshall Zukhov's general staff during the Russian occupation of East Germany, is among the many Russian Jews now settled in Israel. **General Mendel Marshak**, whose entire family was wiped out by the Nazis, managed to reach Israel with his wife after he was released from a Russian prison in 1959. He had served a 10-year sentence for helping Jews cross the border from East to West Germany.

This summer, **Cantor A. Eliezer Kirshblum** is to be director of Camp Massad in Torrence, Ontario, a co-ed camp run in co-operation with the Associated Hebrew Schools. The cantor, who serves Toronto's Adath Israel Congregation, is also president of the Toronto Council of Hazzanim this year.

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Journalist **Pearl Silverberg** of Calgary received a Grant-in-Aid from the Canadian Foundation for Jewish Culture to do a biography on Yiddish author-poet **I.M. Weissenberg**, often called the "first realist in Yiddish literature." Mrs. Silverberg's research will cover material in Israel, New York and Montreal.

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Elections, appointments and such . . . **Arthur Weinthal** takes over as vice-president-entertainment programing for CTV Television Network and is responsible for the planning development and production of the network's entertainment programs, both series and specials . . . **Lita-Rose Betcherman**, former head of Ontario's Women's Bureau, is one of two women added to the list of about 40 men available to act as arbitrators through the Ontario Labor-Management Arbitration Commission . . . **Dr. Karoly Rado** is the new president of the Toronto Jewish Association of Hungarian Descent and **Andrew Veidlinger** is honorary president . . . **John A. Harris'** appointment as development education officer and program director of Canadian ORT was made possible by generous grant from CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency) in order to promote development education among Jewish youth in the high schools and community centres and women's organizations.

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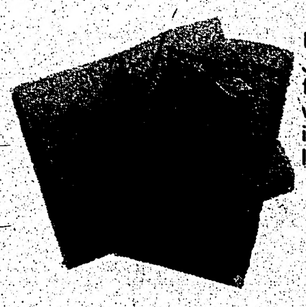
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Sam Kaporovsky (left) of Toronto chats with Yoshua Levy, treasurer of the Histadrut. A large technical highschool to be built in Tel Aviv by the Histadrut will be named after Kaporovsky. Toronto Histadrut hopes to raise $250,000 for the institution.

Speaks to young leaders

'Impossible balancing act' of Jews described by Plaut

TORONTO –

For a Jew to function in modern society he must perform an impossible balancing act, Rabbi W. Gunther Plaut told the Leadership Development Council at the closing meeting of their 1973 program.

"The Jew must retain his own sense of person, yet recognize that he also belongs to the community," the Holy Blossom rabbi said. "Until 1948 he was choiceless. With the establishment of the Jewish state, obligations and opportunities arose before him. He is here by choice but must give meaning to that choice by fulfillment of self and service to the community in which he lives."

Rabbi Plaut elaborated on the concept of privacy with the car becoming modern man's ultimate sanctuary as his "private mobile home." The automobile, according to the rabbi, has helped to heighten man's sense of alienation and loneliness. Plaut sees the fuel crisis as a blessing in disguise, forcing people out of their cars and into closer contact with each other.

Schuyler (Skippy) Sigel chaired this final meeting of a series of seven in an orientation program run under the auspices of the United Jewish Welfare Fund of Toronto. For the past 10 years the Leadership Development Council has encouraged the most capable young men in Toronto's Jewish community to train for future leadership roles by acquainting themselves with all the resources of the major Jewish agencies and services.

Sigel, a lawyer, told the large turnout of young professionals that involvement in this program "is indeed the most rewarding and fulfilling part of my life."

Speaking on behalf of the United Jewish Welfare Fund, Benjamin Schneider, executive vice-president, told the group that unlike a decade ago, young men now dominate agency boards. The community, he said, is becoming so complex that the UJWF is finding itself reaching out to synagogues and landsmanshaften in addition to the agencies under its aegis.

Two members of the recent UJA First President's Mission to Israel, Michael Florence and Dr. Kenneth Sniderman, gave a firsthand account of what they saw during their tour. They will head a Young Leadership Study Mission now being planned for early spring, 1974.

In summing up the orientation sessions, Skippy Sigel declared: "It's the end of the program but the beginning of an exciting life for young Canadian Jews."

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Sponsored by Israel Histadrut Campaign and United Organizations for Histadrut. Kovenska and Kogan will also appear in Hamilton, January 8; London, January 10; Montreal, January 13; Winnipeg, January 14; Niagara Falls, January 17; Windsor January 20.

Danger in over-sensitivity

VANCOUVER –

There must be constant vigilance for blatant anti-Semitism but there is a danger of being over-sensitive and not seeing racial implications, says University of British Columbia professor in modern drama, Dr. Errol Durbach.

Dr. Durbach stressed this point as Beth Israel Sisterhood's Mitzvah Luncheon heard a two-member panel discuss the topic, **Anti-Semitism in Television and Movies.**

The other panelist was Lisa Hobbs, **Vancouver Sun** television columnist. Rabbi Wilfred Solomon moderated the proceedings in the Beth Israel auditorium.

Anti-Semitism as a social evil is not vicious but unthinking, unkind and/or portrayed as a joke. Dr. Durbach said, adding that at times this type of exposure is as bad as open anti-Semitism. Examples are **Gentlemen's Agreement** and Charlie Chaplin's **The Great Dictator.**

"Those movies which are unthinkingly anti-Semitic are perhaps the worst of all," the UBC professor said. He noted that in **Rosemary's Baby** all agents of the devil were portrayed as belonging to minority groups. He said the movie **Portnoy's Complaint** portrayed all Jewish characters in grotesque stereotypes and that both **Hello, Dolly** and **Fiddler on the Roof** presented their Jewish characters as caricatures.

Lisa Hobbs stated that because of stereotypes perpetuated on the media, the Christian never becomes acquainted with the Jew, totally failing to enter into the Jews' psychology.

"Israel and the Jews need the understanding of the rest of the world. However, there are very few who understand," she stressed.

The Sun tv critic said that showing Jews only as being humorous is wrong and destructive.

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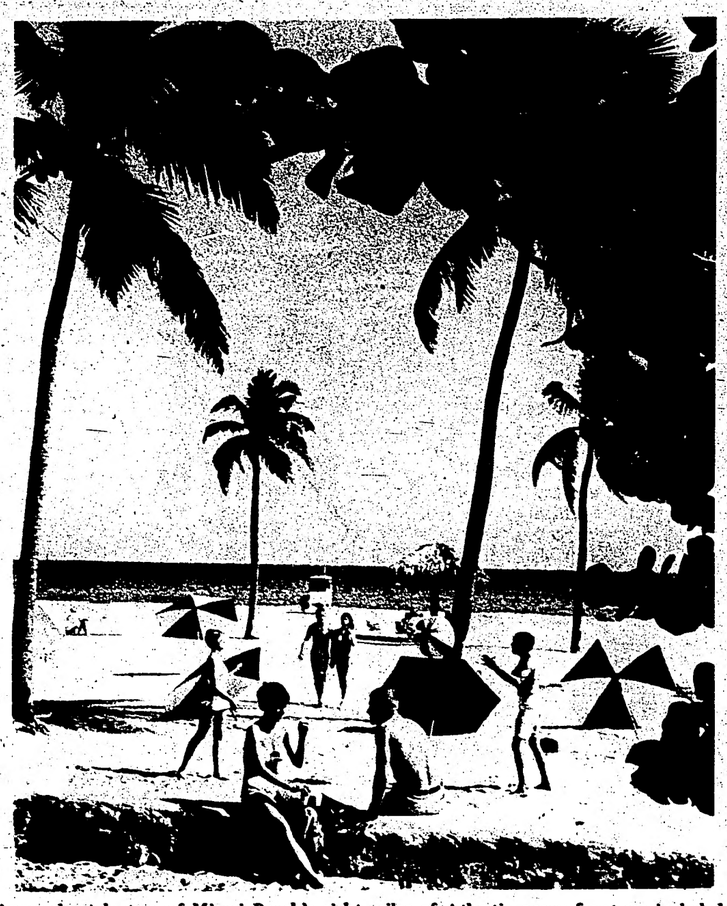

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Dwindling numbers posing problems for small towns

Cont'd from Page 1

Mrs. Yan also feels the CJC "should save the Jewish spirit in both the young and old of the small Jewish communities from complete assimilation" by encouraging young rabbis and teachers to settle there.

The demise of small-town Jewry may be sad, both Lipsitz and Noy agree, but in terms of Jewish continuity it means little. "While one community is dying, it is coming right back in another nearby Jewish centre (800 family Windsor is benefitting from its 20-family neighbor Chatham's decline)," Noy explained.

Nevertheless, any doubts as to encouraging small-town settlement which CJC and UIA have, do not deter their efforts in helping these communities in any way possible.

Despite their "limited resources," the CJC provides expert guidance, makes educational facilities available and assists the finding of rabbis, teachers and cantors.

Lipsitz believes "they welcome this kind of connection and feel there is a centre somewhere to which they can turn for assistance." The UIA, said Noy, also provides some Jewish link and identity by providing programing, entertainment and up-to-date information on Israel.

For this help, all communities appear grateful. Due credit must be given CJC, said Mrs. Yan, for its assistance with Oakville's Hebrew School curriculum. "It was also through their office that Rabbi Nathan Lieberman was recommended to us," she added.

Co-operation from CJC and similar organizations is also received by Kingston, "a young and thriving community" of 120 Jewish families, Leonard Dover, president of its Jewish Community Council, said.

But for Orillia, a town of 24,000 people which includes nine Jewish families, this help was, perhaps, insufficient.

"In 1954, we were a community of 18 families and were well organized," said community spokesman Frank Gold. Community programing has become more social than formal and there is no synagogue or education. "When we were a larger community, we had a commuting teacher and, when needed, the facilities of Congress were called upon and gladly given," Gold said.

There is still a lot of life in North Bay, reports Charles Benchimol, who in a telephone interview recently with The CJN, pleaded with Toronto Jews to help his 36-family community.

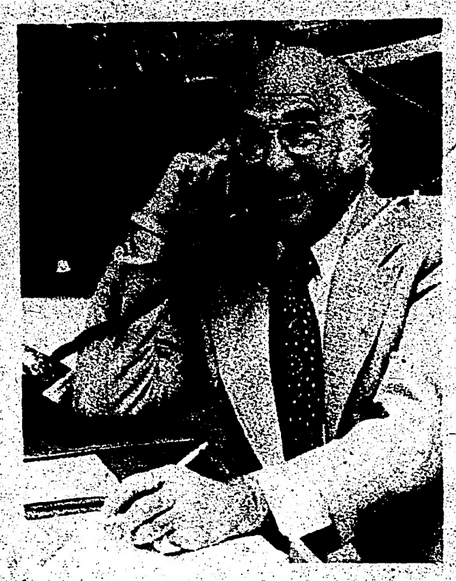
He said community membership was remaining constant despite its remoteness, which forced its "few Kashruth families to import from Toronto at great expense."

Their greatest difficulty, he said, is trying to get their young to visit other communities in order to fight assimilation, "but it is very hard . . . I don't know why." Another priority is arranging for Jewish speakers to visit North Bay.

"Maintaining a kosher home is not that difficult. Rather, it is as hard as you make it," said Rabbi Melvin Burg of Brantford's Orthodox Congregation Beth David. "Dry kosher products are now available and frozen foods soon will be." Other kosher foods must be imported from Toronto or Hamilton as no kosher bakery or butcher is located there. Jewish education is fairly comprehensive and although the "community supports the synagogue 100%, difficulty is had achieving a daily minyan."

Here, too, he claims the community is basically staying at the same level.

Whether small-town Ontario Jewish life will eventually disappear, as Noy and Lipsitz feel, appears open to some doubt. But there is a void in Jewish life in many of these communities, as Alex Rossman, a community leader of nine-family Port Colborne, pointed out. The CJN's contact with other small-town leaders showed this to be the case.



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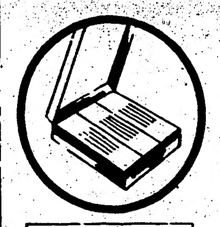

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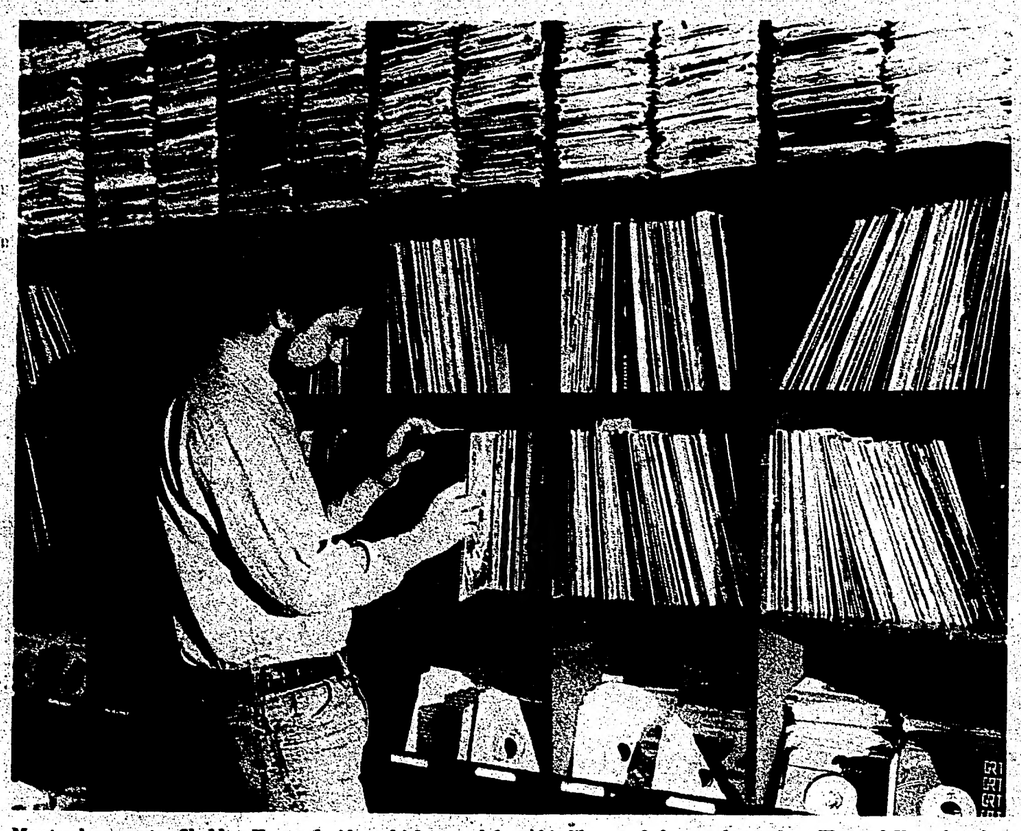
Arts



Montreal promoter Sheldon Kagan decides which record from his library of thousands to play. (Howard Kay photo)

Impressario extraordinaire Kagan--from bar mitzvah DJ to entrepreneur

By MARK MEDICOFF
CJN Quebec Bureau Chief

MONTREAL –

As you enter the office-home of impressario extraordinaire Sheldon Kagan you are drawn into another world. The long hallway leading to the entrance is showered in black light, giving the impression of floating up inside a tree — an environmental sculpture with three dimensional branches and leaves.

Since Kagan "ran away" from home in Montreal in 1966 at the age of 16, he has established a world of loud music and people. From his meagre earnings as a disc jockey at weddings and bar mitzvahs, Kagan has advanced to leading a legal battle against the City of Montreal, organizing singles-only bashes, and promoting rock and big band groups at Place des Arts.

He has even owned his own nightclub. At 23, Sheldon Kagan looked back in an interview with The Canadian Jewish News.

"I guess there were several things that made me break away so early in life," he revealed. "I wasn't progressing at school, and I would only do well in the subjects I enjoyed. I was very interested in music, and I would hang around the bands and technical studios to see how it all was done.

"In the summer of '66 I packed my bags and found an apartment. I knew nothing from nothing about everything."

His biggest influence was a local radio teen show of the 60s where he "beat" the system of call-ins and managed to win over 300 45s which he then used for his disc jockey service at weddings, bar mitzvahs, sweet 16s and parties.

For two years Kagan's livelihood was precarious. "I never had money in the bank, I just had enough to make ends meet," he said. "In 1970, when I was 19, I bought a little nightclub downtown . . . and the legal drinking age then was 20.

"I was the disc jockey, so I put on long playing records and ran to sit the guests down at their table. But I was also the waiter. After serving, I had just enough time to change the album before it finished."

But the 1970 October crisis in Quebec scared Kagan, so he didn't renew the lease on his nightclub.

"You know," he revealed, "two or three years ago, I had a great complex. It was my age. I was dealing with 40 or 50-year-old businessmen. Now I've completely reversed myself," he said, but with a hint of doubt.

In 1971 Kagan booked Dizzie Gillespie and Gene Krupa to appear at Place des Arts. He managed to raise a few thousand dollars for publicity and fees. Although the venture only broke even, it was enough to influence Kagan to do it again. Since then he has promoted over 40 rock groups and big bands at Montreal's major music halls.

Early last spring he successfully bid for the stage contract at Man and His World's Garden of Stars. But a feud between Mayor Jean Drapeau and the musicians guild forced closure of the Garden for the duration of the summer.

Some $9,000 in debt because of the transaction, Kagan is suing the City of Montreal.

In the meantime, the young entrepreneur organizes singles bashes, and helped promote the recent weekend extravaganza at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Chicago. In the new year he plans to stage a 5,000 persons nostalgia revival at a Montreal hotel, complete with the big bands from the 30s and 40s.

The working day for Kagan becomes more hectic. He often reaches for his phone; one is in every room of his office-home. "There are ups and downs," he explained, "but I'm determined . . . that's what keeps me going. Yeah, I sure feel proud. After all, I've come up from number 10 music promoter in five years to number two in Montreal."

Sheldon Kagan is determined.

Columbus' trip, Spanish expulsion were linked, says author Wiesenthal

books

By BERNARD BASKIN

SAILS OF HOPE
by Simon Wiesenthal
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Simon Wiesenthal

Was Columbus a Jew? As far back as 1940, Salvador de Madariaga advanced the thesis that the famous explorer was descended from Spanish Jews who had converted to Christianity. The English historian, Cecil Roth, in a discerning essay on the subject points out that in almost all the missives addressed by Columbus to his son there seemed to be faint markings in the top left-hand corner of the two Hebrew letters that signify "with the help of God."

We know that Columbus was obsessed with Jewish matters, made use of Talmudic phraseology and Hebraic lore, had expert knowledge of cartography (at that time a profession practiced almost exclusively by Jews) and the "callings which various members of his family filled were without exception associated with Jews and Marranos of the period."

Simon Wiesenthal, head of Vienna's Documentation Center and responsible for hunting down and bringing to justice more than a thousand Nazi war criminals, has turned his attention to this fascinating subject. Like a detective in pursuit of his quarry, he has, over a five year period, relentlessly tracked down all possible sources in connection with his theory about Columbus in Spain, Portugal, the Vatican and North Africa.

It is the author's thesis that there was a close connection between the expulsion of Spanish Jewry in 1492 and the voyage that Columbus undertook at precisely the same time. Could it be that he set sail on a secret mission? Was he seeking the Jews in Asia, believed to be descended from the 10 lost tribes of Israel? Is it possible that what he sought was a haven for the expelled Jews of Spain? Why did he need a Hebrew interpreter with him? Why was there no priest among the members of the crew? These conjectures are impressively expounded and documented against the background of a tumultuous 15th-century Spain that was inflamed with religious fanaticism and the cruel dictates of the infamous Inquisition.

All of this is heady stuff for anyone interested in Jewish history or who would like to follow the ingenious author as he unravels a story of infinite mystery, the truth of which is probably forever lost in the mists of yesterday.

The book is beautifully translated from the German and is enhanced by helpful illustrations, index and bibliography.

* * * *

THE MASKS JEWS WEAR
by Eugene B. Borowitz
Musson Book Co. $9.25

The time has come for Jewish authenticity, for acknowledging our numerous self-deceptions and for removing our masks of deceit and dissimulation. When we are solely concerned with anti-Semitism, or when we totally immerse ourselves in Yiddish or ethnic culture, or with the existence of the state of Israel we are not complete or mature Jews.

This is the challenging thesis of Dr. Eugene Borowitz, eminent educator, editor and theologian. He believes that when we have ruthlessly stripped ourselves of the masks that hide us from the reality of our identity, we find that only by accepting the doctrine of a special or Covenant relationship between God and the Jewish people does our survival and continuation make sense. "This commitment focuses Jewishness in an act of self — not in ideas, or practice, or birth alone, but all of these now will take their significance from an utterly fundamental relationship of self with God and people."

In a probing study the author exposes the essential hollowness of an ethical system that has been removed from deeper roots. Ethics must arise from a source beyond our society and ourselves. If we are the problem, how can we be the solution? Ethics must emerge from a divine moral mandate that brings everything human under its sway.

Jews accept more about their ancestral faith than they usually admit. The "God is dead" movement, at its height, caused hardly a ripple in Jewish community life. Why? Because the death of God turned out to mean the death of moral value — and most Jews could not accept that. Seeing around them the engulfing evil effects of a value-free society, American Jews began to realize that there were basic ideals they could not forsake.

The author stressed that through the ages we have been more than just a "church". What principally binds Jews together today, as in the past, is our ethnic heritage. "God lurks behind the chopped liver. The caterer, for all the vulgarity he may have fostered, must be seen as a low-level, latter-day Levite, serving the ritual assemblies of the Jewish masses, the commonality that is the Jewish people."

This provocative analysis is brimful with insights and inspiration. Borowitz gives us theology without tears.

Outrageous, engaging new novel of pilgrim

books

By BERNARD BASKIN

A Fairy Tale of New York
by J. P. Donleavy

In most of J.P. Donleavy's books, the central figure is a cornered and frustrated figure who can no longer function in an insane society. The only thing he can do is to attempt to outfox and out-guess society at its own idiotic game.

Cornelius Christian (is the name meant to be taken as a symbol of a new pilgrim in progress?) returns to New York after a long sojourn abroad. He is shattered by the death of his young wife on the voyage over and by the numerous changes that have transformed the once-familiar city. Grief-stricken and penniless, the eager hero plunges into a series of misadventures and triumphs over a web of vicissitudes. The saga is outrageous and engaging but somehow leaves the reader emotionally uninvolved.

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